REMARKS

Claims 1-49 are active in the present application. Claims 3-5, 10-12, 21-23 and 26 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. Claims 27-49 are new claims. Support for the new claims is found in the original claims. No new matter is added. An action on the merits and allowance of claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

--3. (Amended) A recombinant vector comprising the gene of claim 1 [or 2].

4. (Amended) An expression vector functionally comprising the gene of claim 1 [or 2].

5. (Amended) A transformant obtained by transforming a host cell with the vector of claim 3 [or 4].

10. (Amended) A recombinant vector comprising the gene of claim 8 [or 9].

11. (Amended) An expression vector functionally comprising the gene of claim 8 [or 9].

12. (Amended) A transformant obtained by transforming a host cell with a vector of claim 10 [or 11].

21. (Amended) A recombinant vector comprising [at least one of claim 19 and claim 20] the DNA of claim 19.

22. (Amended) An expression vector comprising [at least one of claim 19 and 20] the DNA of claim 19.

23. (Amended) A transformant obtained by transforming a host cell with the vector of claim 21 [or 22].

26. (Amended) A method for deacylating a side chain acylamino group of a cyclic lipopeptide substance into an amino group, which method comprises culturing a host cell transformed with the expression vector of claim 4, [11 or 22,] and bringing the cyclic lipopeptide substance into contact with the obtained culture or a treated product thereof.--

Claims 27-49 (New).